

**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island**

**February 15, 2006**

**Open Session**

**Mr. Gouveia, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. School Committee members present: Robert Faria, Eileen Lovett, David Medeiros, and Antone Gouveia. Also present: Manuel Vinhateiro, Superintendent; and Andrew A. Thomas, Esq., Assistant Legal Counsel. A motion was made by Mr. Faria to move to Executive Session in accordance with RI General Laws, Section 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 4-0.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to return to public session at 7:30 PM, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.**

**Pledge of Allegiance.** The School Committee proceeded to the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by City Manager William J. Fazioli.

**Moment of Silence.** The School Committee observed a moment of silence.

**Record of Previous Meetings.** A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to approve the minutes of the meetings (November 18, 2005, December 21, 2005 and January 10, 2006) seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.

**Chair's Report.**

**1) Audit Report.** Originally the matter of the Audit Report had been scheduled to be a Joint Meeting with the East Providence City Council. The City Council however, was not present, and in its place City Manager William J. Fazioli presented information concerning the Audit Report of B&E Consulting, LLC, that had been prepared for the City on the state of the School Department's budget. Mr. Fazioli indicated that the Audit Report has concluded that the School Department's budget is under funded by more than \$1,000,000. Mr. Fazioli said that this represents less than two percent of the budget, that it is not a gaping hole, and that he believed that the City Council and the School Committee could work cooperatively together to close the gap. Mr. Gouveia stated the original budget presented by the School Committee to the City Council presented a needs budget, that

he welcomed the audit, which reaffirmed the School Department's needs. Mr. Gouveia stated that the School Committee was totally committed to working with the City on bridging the gap in the budget. Mr. Faria questioned Mr. Fazioli about the City's use of surplus funds derived from Tristham Burgess. Mr. Fazioli indicated that the City had plans to sell additional surplus properties. Mr. Medeiros questioned Mr. Fazioli about whether the City would see additional funds from lottery monies. Mr. Fazioli stated additional funds from lottery monies had not yet come to fruition. Mr. Fazioli indicated that the Audit Report of B&E consulting would be made available for release at the next City Council meeting. The School Committee thanked Mr. Fazioli for his presentation, and for his service to the City of East Providence as the City Manager.

2) Superintendent Search. Mr. Gouveia reported that the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) had been engaged to assist the School Committee in its search for a Superintendent, and that the School Committee had met with NESDEC's facilitator, Dr. Bruce Willard. Mr. Gouveia reported that the following persons would be on the screening committee for the Superintendent's search: Patricia Barlow; Joseph Botelho; Roberta Brady; Maureen Buckett; John F. Butler; Anthony DeCastro; Stephen Furtado; Antone Gouveia; Roscoe Higgins; Estelle Machon; Clifton Moore, Mildred Morris; Eileen Palenchar; Patricia Streit; Alfred Tente, and Superintendent Vinhaterio.

**Hearings. None.**

**Reading of Communications. Mr. Faria reported on a letter that he had received from the Kent Heights PTA thanking the patrol traffic officers.**

**Report of Superintendent and Staff.**

**1) Awarding of Bids. Dr. Hilton recommended the awarding of bids for spring athletic supplies set forth in his report as follows: Grogan Marciano \$3,392.56; Beacon Sports \$1,440.66; Sport Supply Group \$183.53; Greg Larson Sports \$440.62; Anthem Sports \$814.26 and Riddel \$348.00. Motion made by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mr. Medeiros to accept Dr. Hilton's recommendation for the awarding of bids for spring athletic supplies. Vote 5-0**

**2) Personnel Recommendations. Mrs. Rodericks presented the Superintendent's recommendations for the following appointments: Jennifer Carlson, School Nurse-Teacher to full time, effective immediately to the end of the 2005/06 school year; Lisa Goulden, Secretary, Kent Heights; Carol Miranda 1/5th English Teacher, SHS; Robert J. Rodericks, Coach, Girls's Softball, RMS; and Victor Caldaron, Coach, Wrestling, RMS. Motion made by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mrs. Lovett to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for appointments. Vote 5-0.**

**Mrs. Rodericks presented the Superintendent's recommendations for approval of the following resignations: Judith Williams, Reading Teacher, SHS, effective immediately; Paul Amaral, Head Coach, Boy's Tennis, SHS, effectively immediately; and David Axelson, Head Coach, Girls Soccer, SHS, effective immediately. Motion made by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mrs. Lovett to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for resignations. Vote 5-0.**

**Mrs. Rodericks presented the Superintendent's recommendations for the following Job Shares: Joanne Hall (currently Gr. 2 Kent Heights) and Rachel DeCosta (vacating Grade 2 Waddington), Grade 2 Kent Heights 2006/07 school year; Megan King (currently Gr. 5 M.J. Francis) and Michelle MacDonald (vacating Grade 3, M.J. Francis), Grade 5, M. J. Francis 2006/07 school year; and Linda Harnois (currently English Teacher, SHS) and Lori Kiley-Garcia (English Teacher, SHS, currently on Parental Leave), English SHS 2006-2007 School year.. Motion made by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mrs. Lovett to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for Job Shares. Vote 5-0.**

**Mrs. Rodericks presented the Superintendent's recommendations for the following Family and Medical Leaves: Erin Alves, Educational Specialist, Hennessey, effective February 13, 2006; Amy Smith Special Ed., Resource Teacher, SHS, effective February 25, 2006; Jyl Sullivan, Grade 5 Teacher, Waddington, effective March 10, 2006; Cristina Carlotti, French Teacher, SHS, effective April 7, 2006;**

**Jennifer Clark, Grade 3 Teacher, Kent Heights, effective April 24, 2006; and Ann Ackerman, Grade 5 Teacher, Silver Spring, effective April 24, 2006. Motion made by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mrs. Lovett to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for Family and Medical Leaves.**

**Vote 5-0.**

**Mrs. Rodericks presented the Superintendent's recommendations for the following Parental Leaves: Ann Ackerman, Grade 5 Teacher, Silver Spring, 2006/07 school year; and Julie Martin, Speech Pathologist, to end of 2005/06 school year. Motion made by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mrs. Lovett to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for Parental Leaves. Vote 5-0.**

**Mrs. Rodericks presented the Superintendent's recommendation for the following Extended Personal Leave: Sharon Waterman, Diagnostic Prescriptive Consultant, Special Services, 2006/07 school year (Year 2). Motion made by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mrs. Lovett to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for Extended Personal Leave. Vote 5-0.**

**The Superintendent presented his recommendations for Lay Offs Due to Declining Enrollment. The School Committee had been provided with the names of the persons affected in its package. Motion by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mr. Medeiros to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for Lay Offs Due to Declining Enrollment. Roll Call**

**Vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; and Mr. Gouveia, aye.**

**The Superintendent presented his recommendations for Lay Offs Due to Senior Teacher Returning from Leave. The School Committee had been provided with the names of the persons affected in its package. Motion by Mrs. Lovett, seconded by Mrs. Morris to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for Lay Offs Due to Senior Teacher Returning from Leave. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; and Mr. Gouveia, aye.**

**3) Field Trip Requests. The Superintendent recommended approval of the Band and Flag Corp Field Trip to New York City, March 10-11. Motion by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mr. Medeiros to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the Field Trip of the EPHS Band and Flag Corp. Vote 5-0.**

**4) Prospective Grants/Consultants. Dr. Forbes recommended approval of requests for granting stipends to the persons set forth on the list supplied to the School Committee in its package. Dr. Forbes indicated that the source of funding would be Title II. Motion made by Mr. Medeiros, seconded by Mrs. Lovett to approve the requests for stipends. Vote: 5-0.**

**Report of Sub-Committees.**

**1) Family Involvement Committee.** Mrs. Lovett reported on the January Grant Writing Workshop, and announced that there is a second Grant Writing Workshop in March. Mrs. Lovett also reported on the One City One Goal Workshop, and the events planned for Townie Pride Earth Day in April. Mr. Streit gave an update on the Golf Tournament.

**2) Cafeteria Committee.** Mrs. Morris presented an update on cafeteria issues.

**Unfinished Business. 2005-06 Budget.** Superintendent Vinhateiro recommended approval of a revised budget based upon the recommendations of B & E Consulting in its Audit Report. The revised budget set forth in a document entitled “East Providence School Department 2005-2006 Budget, Adjusted with Audit Recommendations 1/30/06” had been distributed to the School Committee in its materials for the meeting. Motion by Mr. Medeiros, seconded by Mrs. Morris to approve the revised budget. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; and Mr. Gouveia, aye.

**New Business.**

**1) Resolutions.** The Superintendent recommended approval of the following resolution:



**WHEREAS, the City of East Providence's fiscal year begins on November 1st; and**

**WHEREAS, the fiscal year of most communities in the State of Rhode Island begins on July 1st; and**

**WHEREAS, under current law, the cut off date for sending notice of teacher lay offs is March 1st; and**

**WHEREAS said March 1st notice date is eight months into the fiscal year for most communities, but is only four months into the fiscal year for the City of East Providence; and**

**WHEREAS given the time frame involved, it is difficult, if not impossible, to adequately know by March 1st what will be the status of the East Providence School Committee's budget for the ensuing school;**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the East Providence School Committee is requesting that the General Assembly amend the layoff notice provisions from March 1st to June 1st as applied to teachers employed by the East Providence School Committee.**

**Motion made by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mr. Medeiros to approve the resolution. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; and Mr. Gouveia, aye.**

**2) Universal Breakfast Program. Mary Ann Matthews presented information regarding the Universal Breakfast Program, and the reasons for supporting this program.**

**Diane Selley recommended piloting the program throughout the grades and not just in elementary schools. Maggie Rogers of Pawtucket spoke on behalf of the program and indicated that state funds were available, in addition to federal funds. Francis Daugherty asked questions as to whether teachers ever provide students with snacks. Superintendent Vinhaterio indicated that in his experience, teachers sometimes make food available to children who have left their lunch at home. Dr. Hilton indicated that if the Universal Breakfast Program was adopted to the end of the year in the two targeted elementary schools, that the cost/loss would be approximately \$580. The School Committee discussed various issues regarding the Universal Breakfast Program such as the feasibility of implementing the program at the high school where there are four lunch seatings, staffing issues, and bus schedules. Motion made by Mrs. Lovett, seconded by Mrs. Morris to implement a pilot Universal Breakfast Program to the end of the year in two elementary schools. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; and Mr. Gouveia, aye.**

## **Payment of Bills.**

### **Local Operating Bill List:**

**Warrant #000628 1/27/06 \$1,390,642.45**

**Motion by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mr. Medeiros to approve payment. Vote 5-0**

**Warrant # 000629 1/30/06 \$ 11,532.50**

**Motion by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mrs. Lovett to approve payment.  
Vote 5-0.**

**Federal Bill List:**

**Warrant #000626 1/19/06 \$ 301,065.86**

**Motion by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mr. Medeiros to approve  
payment. Vote 5-0**

**Question and Answer Period. Mary Ann Matthews indicated that the  
School Committee needed to activate its Affirmative Action  
Committee, and that she was bringing this subject to the School  
Committee's attention so that it could look into matters and take  
action.**

**Adjourn. A motion was made by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mr.  
Medeiros to adjourn at 9:20 PM. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Andrew A. Thomas, Assistant Legal Counsel**

**David Medeiros, Clerk of the Committee**